



TOIRMA Update

By Jim Donelan

TOIRMA Executive Director

Preparing for Winter

WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT, the colder months are here in Illinois. It's no surprise to any of us that with winter weather comes a whole new set of risks and responsibilities. This applies to drivers of any vehicle, personal or public, and to the duties of township officials.

There is a direct correlation between the number of claims incurred during a particular TOIRMA Program Year and the weather. For instance, last year we had what TOIRMA considers an overall "good winter" for Illinois, and the aggregate number of claims reported was down. To the contrary, the more snow and ice we get in a season, the higher the number of claims reported. This is one of the reasons why township officials must prepare for the forthcoming inclement winter weather. There are a number of items for a highway commissioner to keep in-mind with winter approaching.

Properly inspecting all township vehicles, including trucks and plows, before and after each use will help your township/road district be prepared this winter. Highway commissioners, please work with your employees to drive their snow routes prior to inclement weather. This will aid drivers in becoming familiar with potential physical hazards before the highways are covered with snow and ice. This proactive approach ahead of time can help reduce accidents and property damage.

Further, documenting regular inspections of roads, weather conditions, road work, and equipment is a key part of a successful risk management program for any township/road district. TOIRMA offers a tool in accomplishing these tasks, the *Highway Commissioners Diary*. This publication has been designed to assist township officials in minimizing the cost of any claims and lawsuits by providing a ready-to-use mechanism to easily document regular inspections of the aforementioned. Also, included in the *Highway Commissioners Diary* among other helpful items are heavy equipment/vehicle checklists. If you do not have a *Diary* or are in need of a new one, please contact Debbie Prentice at (217) 444-1204 or dprentice@ccmsi.com, and we will send you one.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.
As always, if you have any additional questions,

please feel free to contact me toll-free at (888) 562-7861 or by email at jdonelan@toirma.org.

Think Safe...Drive Safe...Work Safe

As of October 24, 2018, the following TOIRMA members have not deposited their 2018 dividend check. If your township/road district is on this list below, please deposit your dividend as soon as possible. Thank you!

Township	County
ATLAS	PIKE
COLUMBUS	ADAMS
MORGAN RD DIST 11	MORGAN
SERENA	LASALLE
STONEFORT	SALINE
WEBBER	JEFFERSON



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